

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 9 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, rejects claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-A-2002-138849 to Kitamura et al. (hereinafter "Kitamura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,310 to Adachi et al. (hereinafter "Adachi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kitamura teaches a belt drive device that can reduce generation of a belt slip, the belt drive device comprising a first and a second starting motor 108 and 109 for feeding starting power to an internal combustion engine (Abstract). A first and second starting motor pulley 8 and 9 connected to the respective starting motors 108 and 109, a crank pulley for transmitting the starting power to the internal combustion engine 1 and transmitting rotational power of the internal combustion engine to auxiliary machines, auxiliary machine pulleys 3 and 4 rotated by the power of the crank pulley 2 to drive auxiliary machines (Abstract). With reference to, for example, Fig. 1 of Kitamura, the Office Action indicates that several of the features recited in claim 1 are alleged to be shown. As indicated above, in Kitamura crank pulley 2 is driven by two starting motors 108 and 109, and auxiliary machine 3 and 4 are driven by the belt 10. Kitamura discloses that a driving torque of the starting motors is controlled to prevent slippage of the belt. Nothing in Kitamura, however, discusses any action that occurs after the engine is started. Further, nothing in Kitamura discloses any relative size of the starting motors or any relative positioning of the starter motors to the belt tensioner 7.

Adachi teaches a car power supply system including first and second generators which are smaller in size than a generator which is large in size and obtains high output for a large-capacity electric load by itself (Abstract). Adachi, for example, teaches no belt-tensioner being necessary or used, albeit that two generators of apparently different sizes are included.

The Office Action concedes that Kitamura does not disclose the pulley of the first generator including a clutch but rather relies on Adachi as teaching, for example, this feature. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kitamura so that the first motor/generator pulley 9 includes a clutch based on the teachings of Adachi. The motivation asserted in the Office Action is that to combine the references in the manner suggested would allow for obtaining high outputs for large electrical loads and improving the installation freedom of the engine to obtain crash safety and to disconnect the pulley from the shaft so as not to produce power when not required and to prevent slip. This analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reasons.

Claim 6 recites, among other features, wherein the plurality of the driven pulleys include a pulley of an automatic belt-tensioner that controls a belt tension and pulleys of a first generator and a second generator, an inertia moment of the first generator being larger than an inertia moment of the second generator; the pulley of the first generator includes a one-way clutch that transmits rotational torque in one direction from the crankshaft pulley to a rotor of the first generator; the pulley of the second generator is a solid pulley that transmits rotational torque in both directions between the crankshaft pulley and a rotor of the second generator; and the pulley of the first generator is coupled to the belt at a position closer to the pulley of the belt-tensioner than the pulley of the second generator.

Claim 7 recites, among other features, wherein the plurality of the driven pulleys include a pulley of an automatic belt-tensioner that controls a belt tension and pulleys of a first generator and a second generator, a diameter of the first generator pulley being smaller

than a diameter of the second generator pulley; the pulley of the first generator includes a one-way clutch that transmits rotational torque in one direction from the crankshaft pulley to a rotor of the first generator; the pulley of the second generator is a solid pulley that transmits rotational torque in both directions between the crankshaft pulley and a rotor of the second generator; and the pulley of the first generator is coupled to the belt at a position closer to the pulley of the belt-tensioner than the pulley of the second generator.

There is nothing in either of Kitamura or Adachi to suggest an inertia moment of the first generator being larger than an inertia moment of the second generator as positively recited in, for example, claim 6; or a diameter of a first generator pulley being smaller than a diameter of a second generator pulley, the smaller pulley including a one way clutch that transmits rotational torque in one direction from the crank shaft pulley, the smaller pulley being positioned closer to the belt tensioner than the larger pulley as is recited, for example, in claim 7.

Further, the conclusory statement that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references in the manner suggested is not enough to prove that there is a teaching, suggestion or motivation of prior art to do so. Further, the alleged motivation to combine the references to render obvious the subject matter of the pending claims as discussed above is neither suggested by either of the applied prior art references, nor by the objectives to which the subject matter of the pending claims are directed. MPEP §2143.01 instructs that "[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the result in combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination" this MPEP section goes on to instruct that "[a]lthough a prior art device 'may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be a suggestion of motivation in the reference to do so.'" This standard is simply not met here, and as such the rejection of at least independent claims 6 and 7 are improper in view of the Patent

Office guidance to its Examiners. The Office Action lacks the required specific evidence of a teaching or motivation in the prior art to one of ordinary skill to combine these references in the manner suggested to render obvious the subject matter of the pending claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Kitamura and Adachi are not combinable in the manner suggested, and any permissible combination of Kitamura and Adachi cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in at least independent claims 6 and 7. Further, claim 8 also would not have been suggested by the asserted combination of references for at least the dependence of this claim on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that this claim recites.

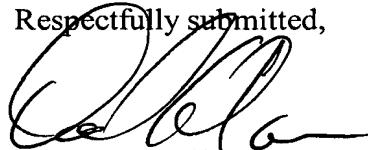
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura in view of Adachi are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 4 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application 10/648,389 in view of Adachi. The attached Terminal Disclaimer renders this rejection moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claim 6 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/cfr

Date: September 28, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461